



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE  
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APPLICATION NUMBER	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED APPLICANT	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.
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08/861,943 05/22/97 MIYAMOTO

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IM71/0210

EXAMINER
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DIXON, M

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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1774

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DATE MAILED:

02/10/99

This is a communication from the examiner in charge of your application.  
COMMISSIONER OF PATENTS AND TRADEMARKS

OFFICE ACTION SUMMARY

☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 11-27-98

☒ This action is **FINAL**.

☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, **prosecution as to the merits is closed** in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 D.C. 11; 453 O.G. 213.

A shortened statutory period for response to this action is set to expire 3 month(s), or thirty days, whichever is longer, from the mailing date of this communication. Failure to respond within the period for response will cause the application to become abandoned. (35 U.S.C. § 133). Extensions of time may be obtained under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a).

Disposition of Claims

☒ Claim(s) 43-49, 56 is/are pending in the application.

Of the above, claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.

☒ Claim(s) 43-49, 56 is/are rejected.

☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.

☐ Claims \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction or election requirement.

Application Papers

☒ See the attached Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review, PTO-948.

☐ The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to by the Examiner.

☐ The proposed drawing correction, filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is ☐ approved ☐ disapproved.

☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

☐ Acknowledgement is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d).

☐ All ☐ Some\* ☐ None of the CERTIFIED copies of the priority documents have been

☐ received.

☐ received in Application No. (Series Code/Serial Number) \_\_\_\_\_

☐ received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\*Certified copies not received: \_\_\_\_\_

☐ Acknowledgement is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e).

Attachment(s)

☐ Notice of Reference Cited, PTO-892

☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s), PTO-1449, Paper No(s). \_\_\_\_\_

☐ Interview Summary, PTO-413

☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review, PTO-948

☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application, PTO-152

*Merrick Dixon*

MERRICK DIXON  
PRIMARY EXAMINER  
GROUP 1300

-- SEE OFFICE ACTION ON THE FOLLOWING PAGES --

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The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

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Claims 43-4~~9~~ and 56 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Peeters('077) in view of Arai et al('247) for reasons as set forth in the previous office action, inter alia.

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Applicant's arguments filed 11-27-98 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive. Applicants argue that the examiner identified element 12A as stopper element similar to that claimed. Later on, however, applicants ,on page 4, line 7, admits that the stopper , 12A indeed fits into the center hole of the patented device but said stopper is used for different purpose. The examiner would disagree and remind applicants that the purpose the stopper is intended to be used is of no patentable consequences to the instant question for patentability.

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**THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL.** Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of this final action.

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**Crystal Mall 1 Fax Center**

A facsimile center has been established in Crystal Plaza 3. The hours of operations are Mondays through Friday, 8:45 to 4:45 PM. This new location should be used in all instances when faxing any correspondence to Group 1300. The Patent Examining Fax Center new telecopier numbers

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are (703) 305-3599 for all After Finals and 703-305-5408 for all others. Use of the new Crystal Plaza 3 center will facilitate rapid delivery of materials to the group. The faxing of all papers must conform with the notice published in the Official Gazette, 1096 O.G. 30 ( November 15, 1989).

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Any questions concerning this communication should be directed to Examiner Merrick Dixon at 703-308-0013.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Merrick Dixon', with a stylized, flowing script.

Merrick Dixon

Primary Examiner

Group 1300